



US009055735B2

(12) **United States Patent**
Hiraoka

(10) **Patent No.:** **US 9,055,735 B2**
(45) **Date of Patent:** **Jun. 16, 2015**

(54) **SPINNING REEL AND SPINNING-REEL REEL UNIT**

(56) **References Cited**

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

(71) Applicant: **Shimano Inc.**, Sakai, Osaka (JP)

7,413,138 B2 * 8/2008 Kitajima et al. 242/311

(72) Inventor: **Hirokazu Hiraoka**, Osaka (JP)

7,628,348 B2 * 12/2009 Saito 242/311

7,802,744 B2 * 9/2010 Saito 242/241

(73) Assignee: **Shimano Inc.**, Osaka (JP)

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 94 days.

EP 1 949 787 A1 7/2008

EP 2 248 418 A1 11/2010

JP 2010-172252 A 8/2010

JP 4804330 B2 11/2011

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

(21) Appl. No.: **13/894,933**

European Search Report of corresponding EP Application No. 13 16 9800.3 dated Oct. 14, 2013.

(22) Filed: **May 15, 2013**

* cited by examiner

(65) **Prior Publication Data**

US 2013/0327870 A1 Dec. 12, 2013

Primary Examiner — Emmanuel M Marcelo

(74) *Attorney, Agent, or Firm* — Global IP Counselors

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Jun. 7, 2012 (JP) 2012-129636

Jun. 22, 2012 (JP) 2012-140518

(57) **ABSTRACT**

The reel unit includes a chassis, a lid member, a guard member, a tubular part, and a screw member. The chassis includes a mechanism attachment space at a lateral side thereof, a first opening extending through a front edge of the chassis, and a second opening extending through a rear edge of the chassis. The guard member includes a boss being inserted into the second opening from the rear edge of the chassis. The guard member is attached to the chassis and the lid member from behind to cover the chassis and the lid member. The tubular part is disposed between the first opening and the second opening within the mechanism attachment space and arranged to be liquid-tight. The screw member passes through the first opening and being screwed into the boss. The screw member includes a head being held inside the tubular part.

15 Claims, 10 Drawing Sheets

(51) **Int. Cl.**

A01K 89/01 (2006.01)

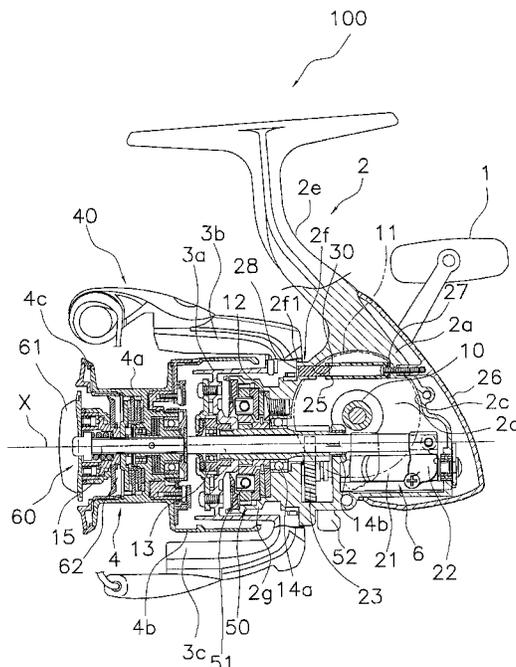
(52) **U.S. Cl.**

CPC **A01K 89/01** (2013.01)

(58) **Field of Classification Search**

USPC 242/310, 311, 312

See application file for complete search history.



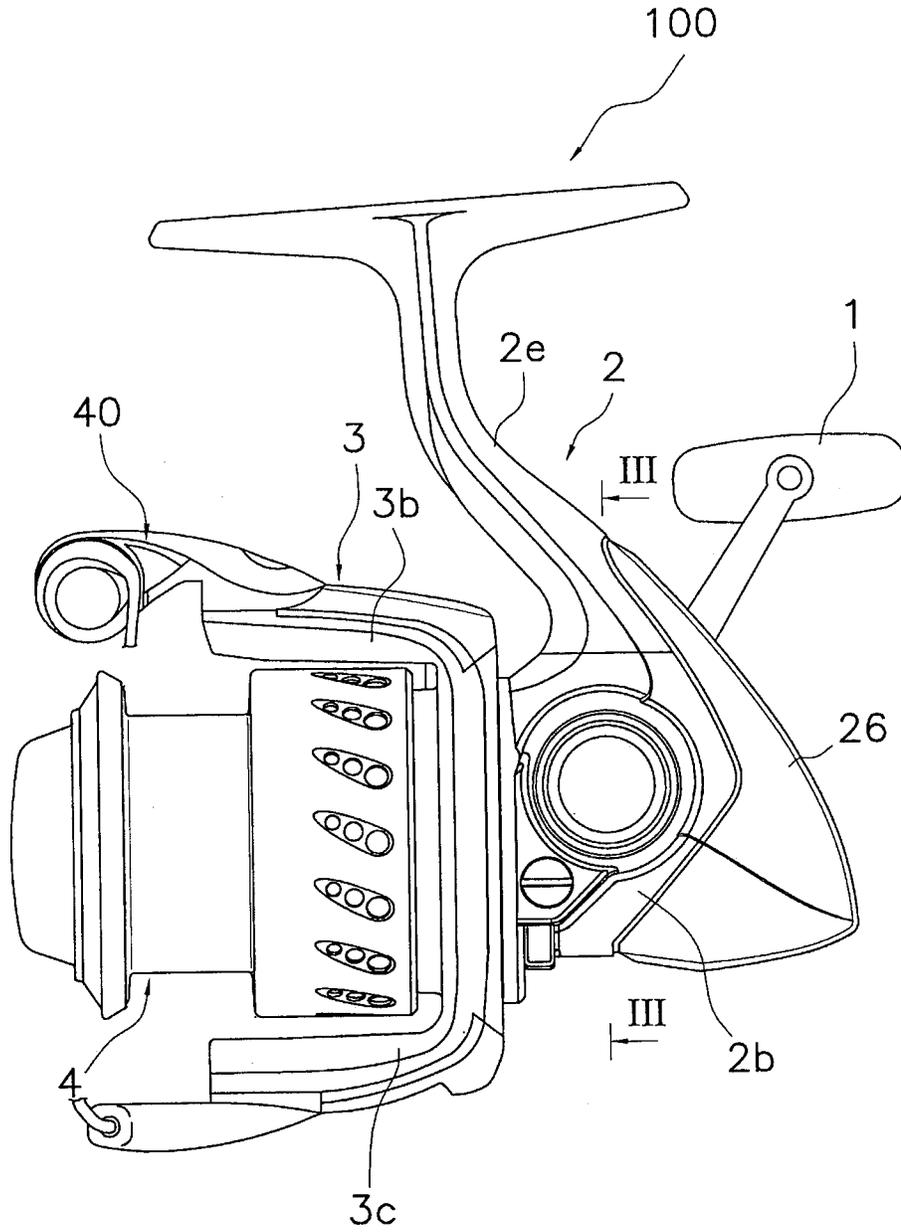


FIG. 1

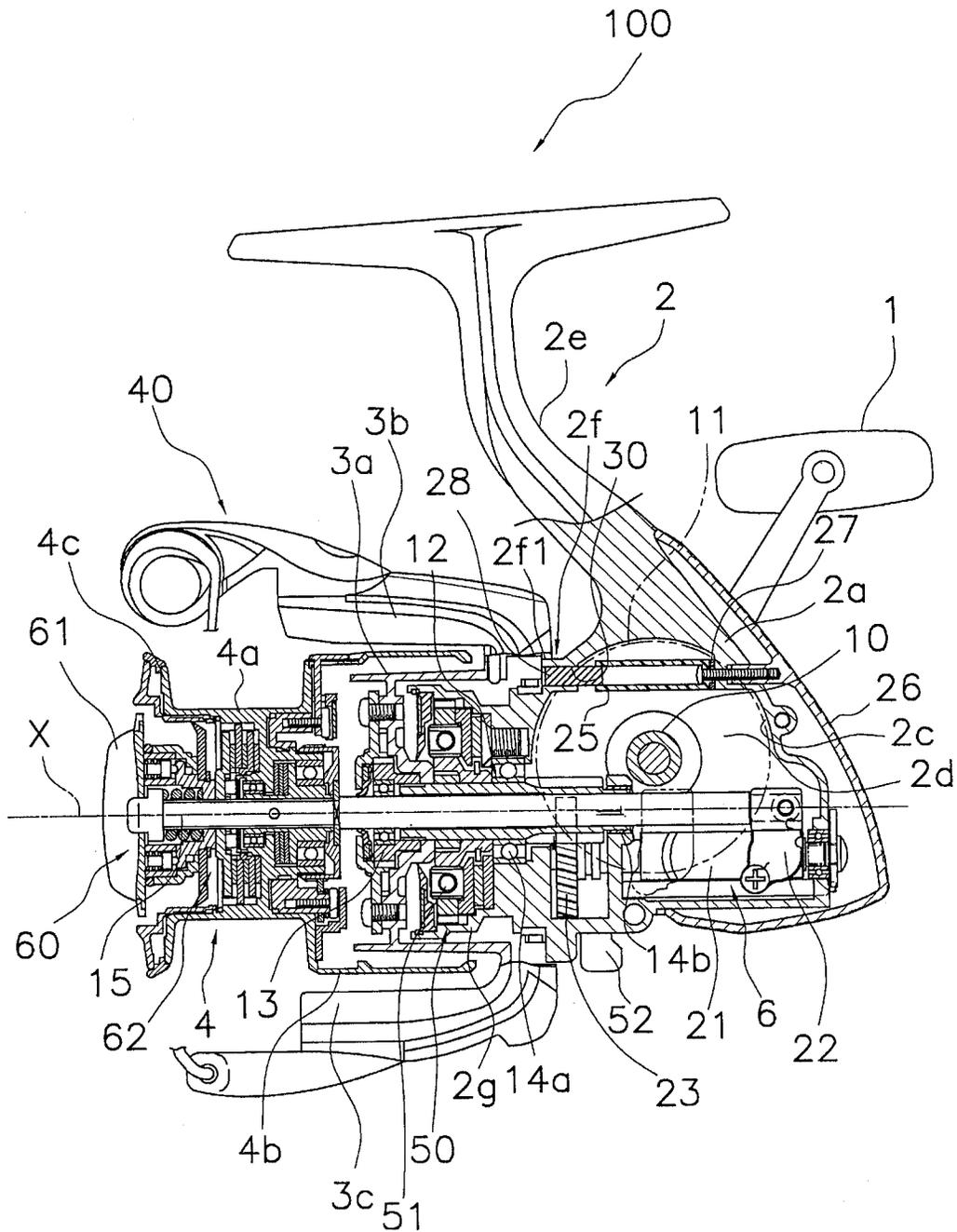
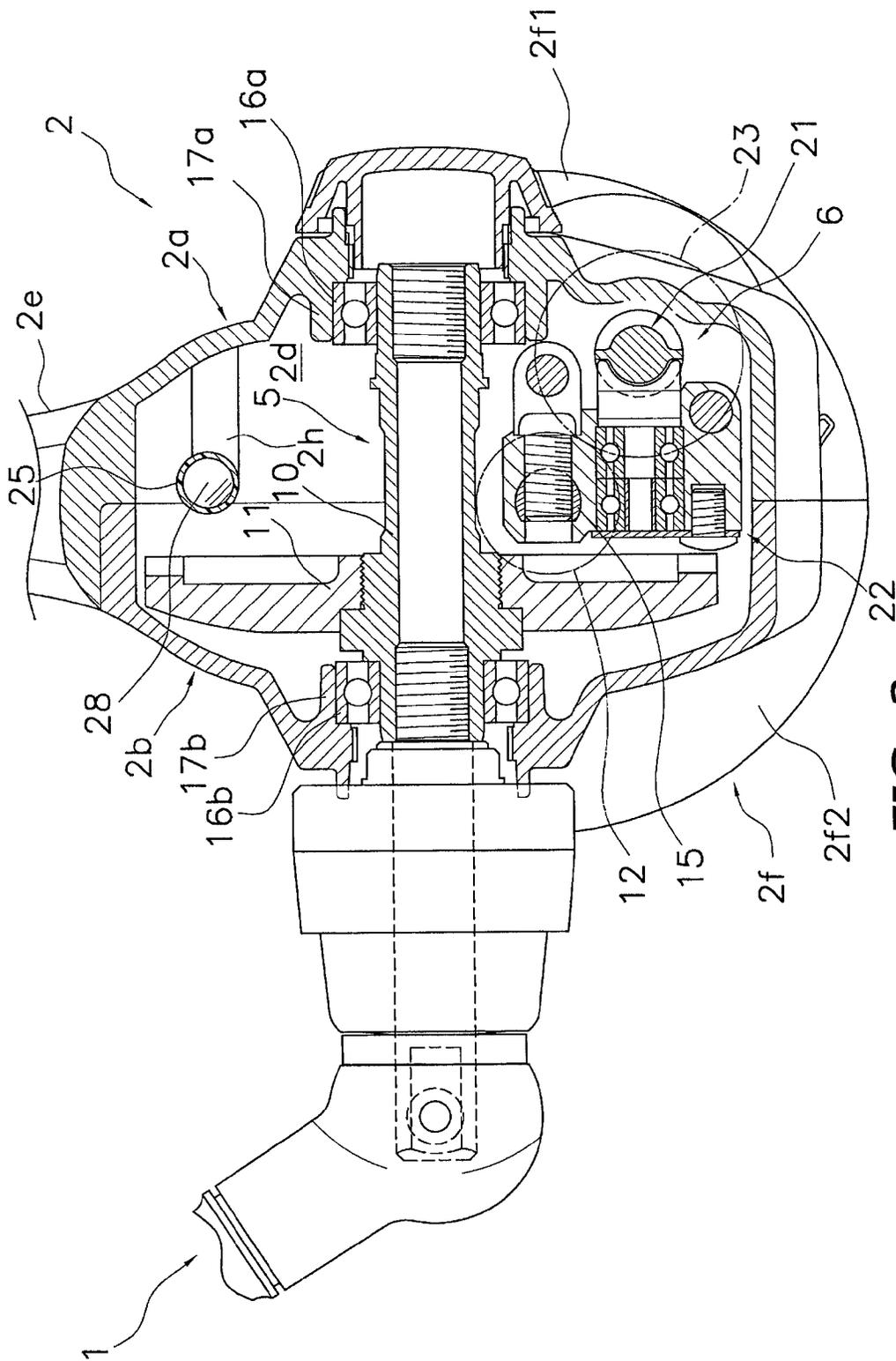


FIG. 2



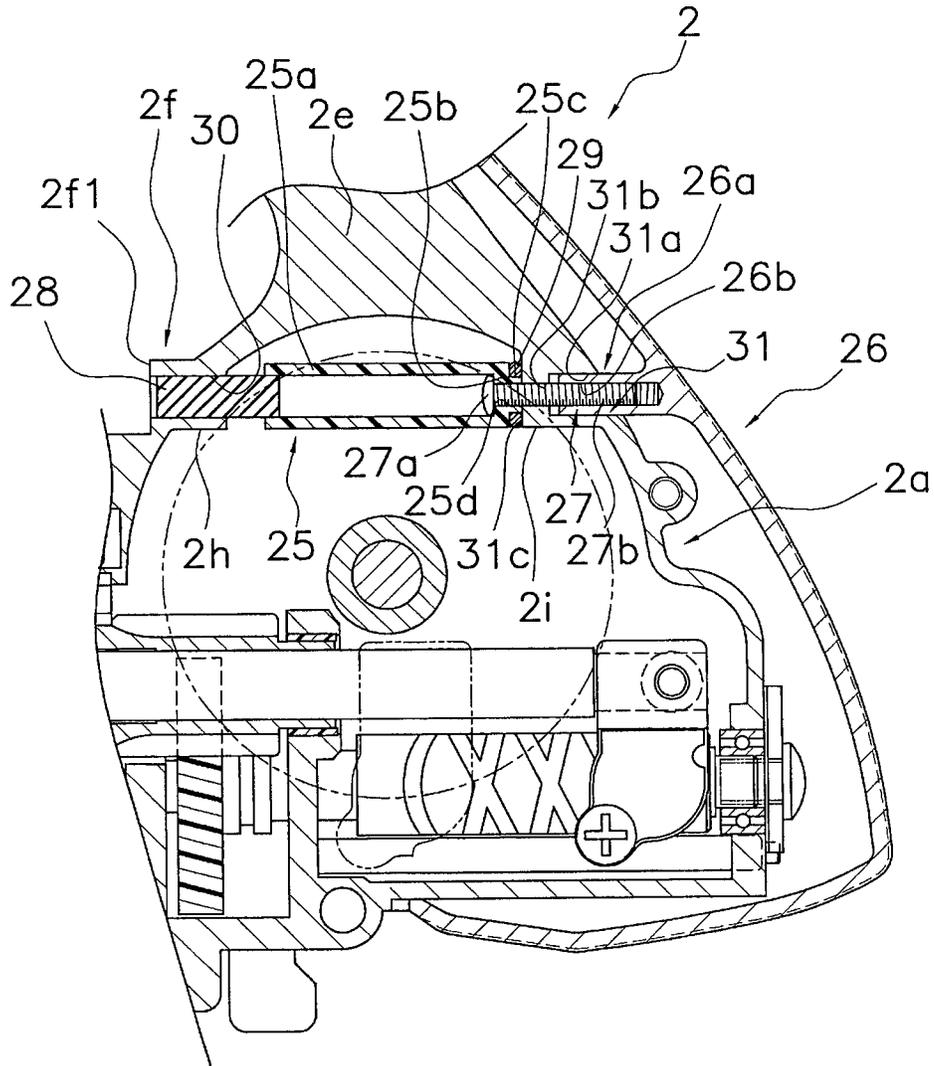


FIG. 5

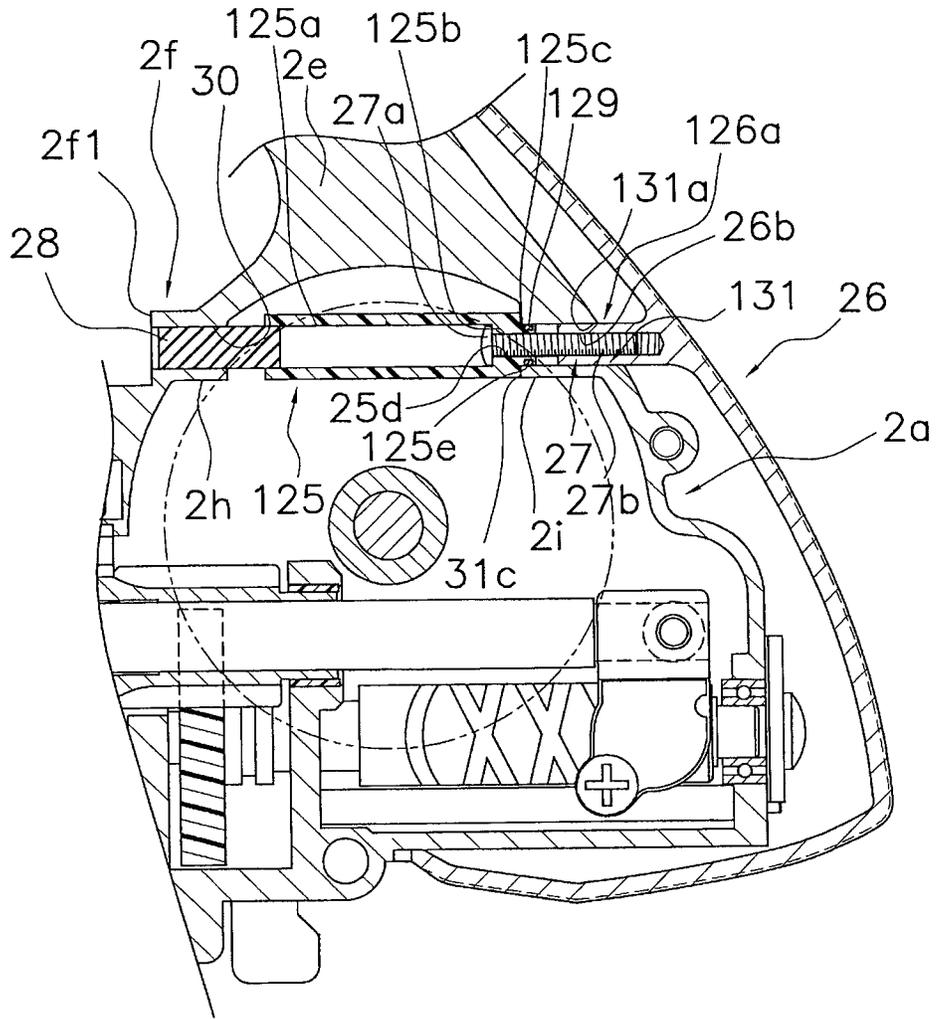
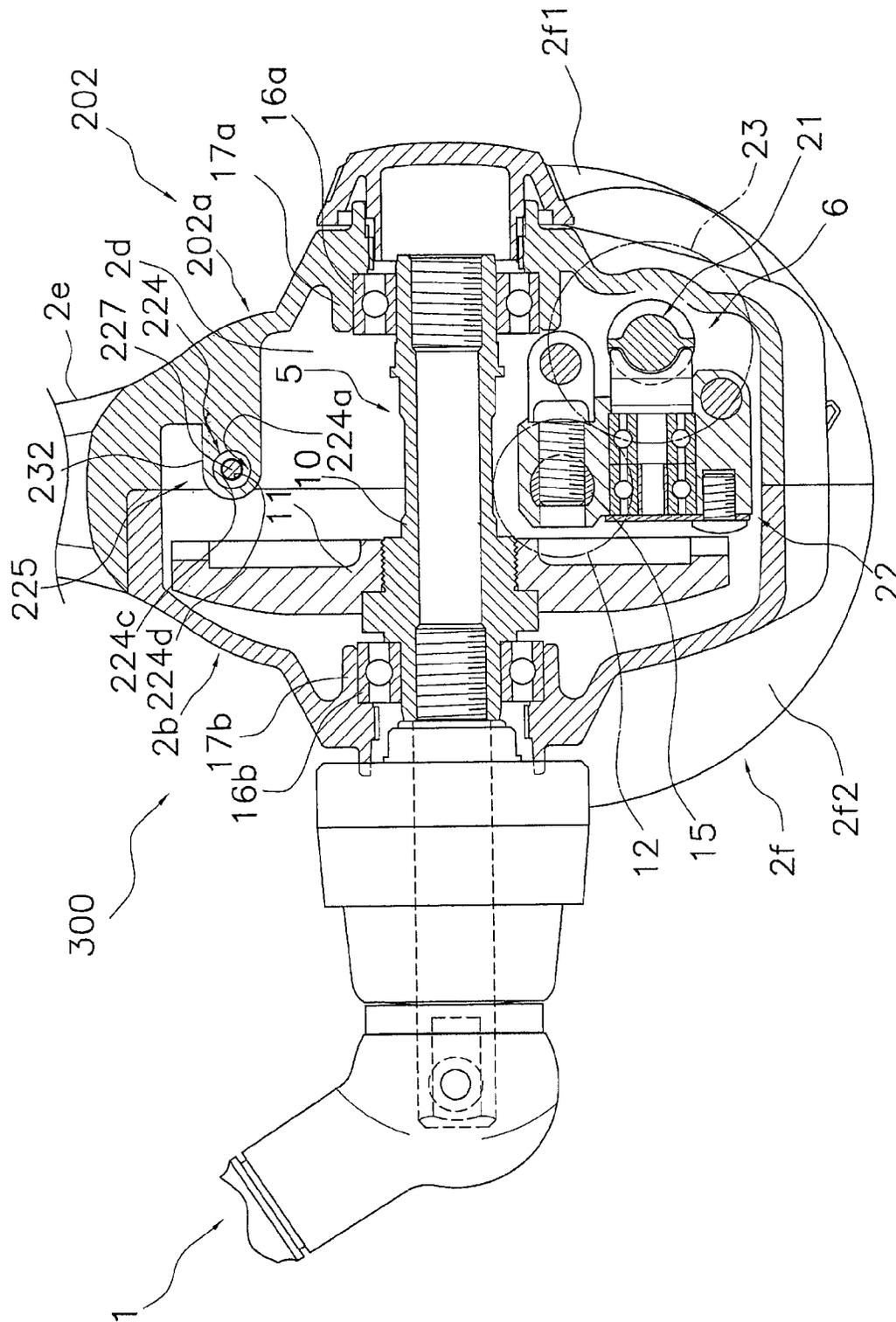


FIG. 6



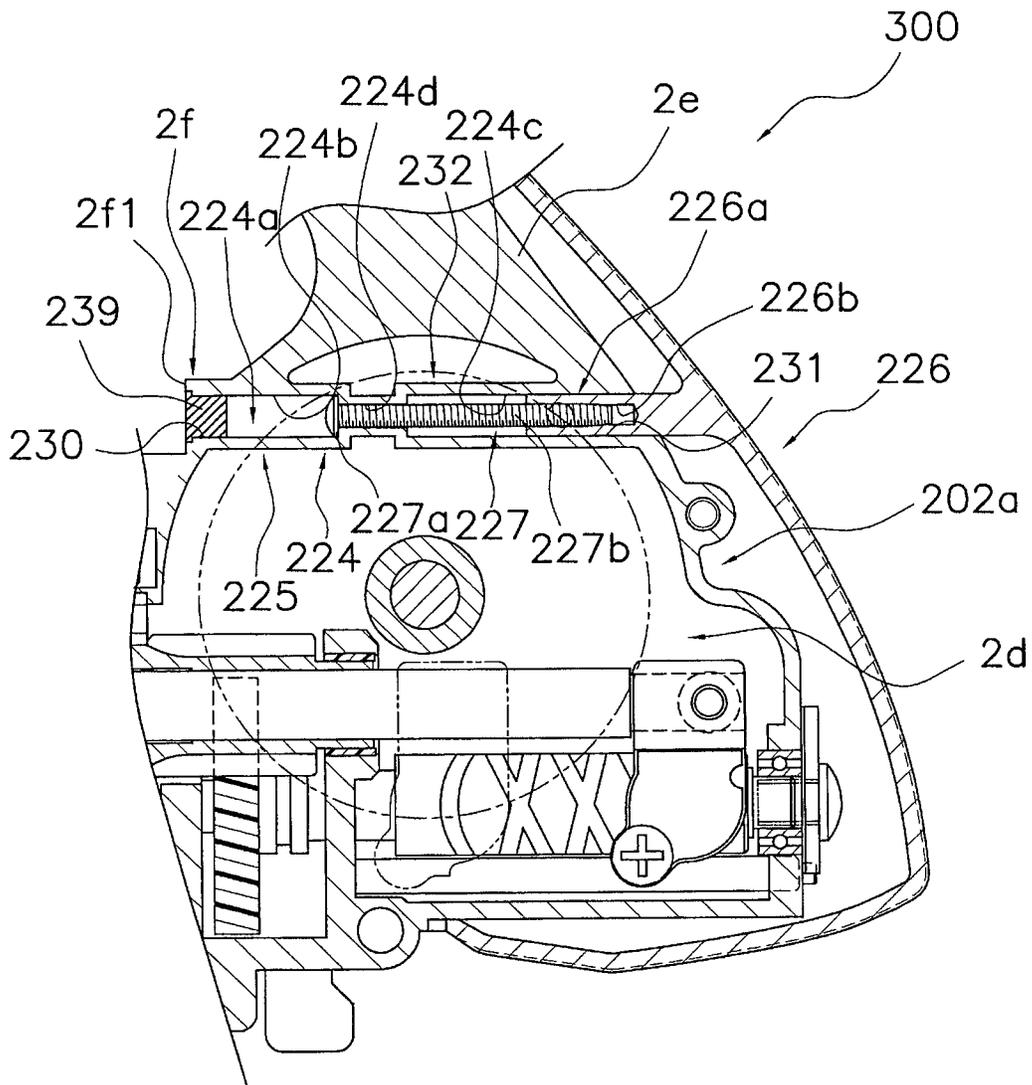


FIG. 9

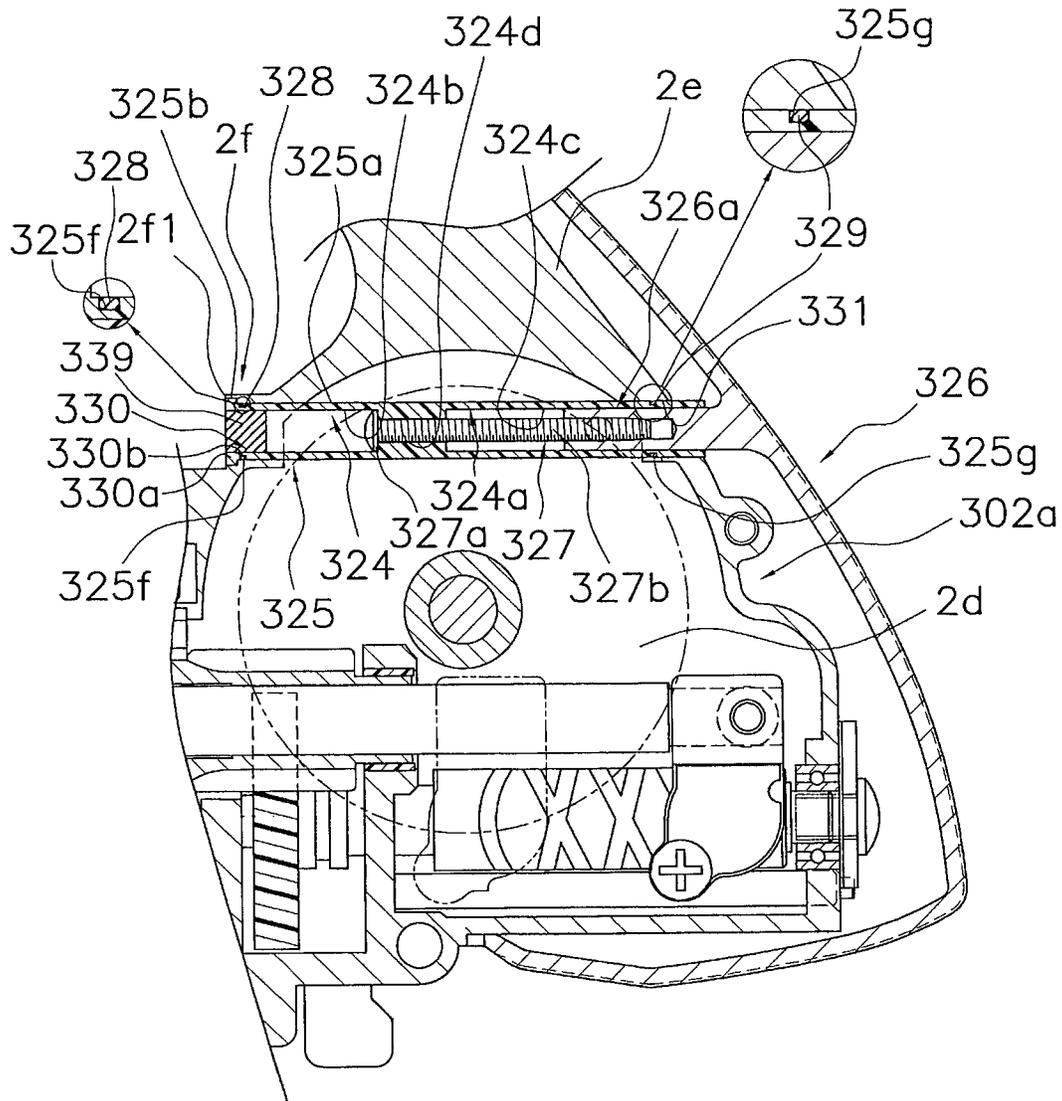


FIG. 10

1

SPINNING REEL AND SPINNING-REEL REEL UNIT

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application claims priority to Japanese Patent Application Nos. 2012-129636 filed on Jun. 7, 2012 and 2012-140518 filed on Jun. 22, 2012. The entire disclosure of Japanese Patent Application Nos. 2012-129636 and 2012-140518 is hereby incorporated by herein reference.

BACKGROUND

1. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a spinning reel that is attachable to a fishing rod and is configured to forwardly release a fishing line, and relates to a spinning-reel reel unit.

2. Background Art

A reel unit of a spinning reel includes a chassis, a lid member, and a guard member. The chassis has an opening. The lid member is fixed to the chassis for closing the opening. A mechanism attachment space can be formed between the lid member and the chassis. The guard member covers the rear part of the chassis and that of the lid member. The guard member is screwed to the chassis. A well-known type of reel unit has a structure in which the guard member is provided with a forwardly protruding boss so as to be screwed to the chassis (e.g., see specification of Japan Patent No. 4804330). In such well-known reel unit, the front part of the chassis has a through hole and an intermediate member is disposed between the through hole and the boss. The rear part of the intermediate member is fixed to the boss by a first screw member, while the front part thereof is fixed to the through hole by a second screw member. The through hole is closed with a cap after fixation by the second screw member. Accordingly, the guard member can be easily fixed to the chassis without exposing the screw members for fixation of the guard member to the rear side of the reel unit.

In such well-known structure, the screw members for fixation of the guard member are not exposed to the rear side of the reel unit. However, two screw members are required for fixation of the guard member. A fixation work for the guard member will be complicated. Further, the cap member is attached to the through hole. However, chances are that liquid enters the mechanism attachment space through a clearance between the chassis and the boss.

SUMMARY

It is an advantage of the present invention to inhibit liquid from entering a mechanism attachment space and to easily fix a guard member without exposing a screw member to the rear side.

A reel unit for a spinning reel is provided. The spinning reel is attachable to a fishing rod. The spinning reel is configured to forwardly release a fishing line from a front side of the spinning reel. The reel unit includes a chassis, a lid member, a guard member, a tubular part, and a screw member. The chassis includes a mechanism attachment space at a lateral side thereof, a first opening extending through a front edge of the chassis, and a second opening extending through a rear edge of the chassis. The second opening is disposed on an opposite side of the first opening. The lid member is detachably attached to the chassis to close the mechanism attachment space. The guard member includes a boss being inserted into the second opening from the rear edge of the chassis. The

2

guard member is attached to the chassis and the lid member from behind to cover the chassis and the lid member. The tubular part is disposed between the first opening and the second opening within the mechanism attachment space and arranged to be liquid-tight. The screw member passes through the first opening and being screwed into the boss. The screw member having a head being held inside the tubular part.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Referring now to the attached drawings which form a part of this original disclosure:

FIG. 1 is a side view of a spinning reel according to a first exemplary embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 2 is a cross-sectional side view of the spinning reel;

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view of the spinning reel taken along a cutting line in FIG. 1;

FIG. 4 is an enlarged perspective view of a chassis;

FIG. 5 is an enlarged cross-sectional side view of a rear part of a reel unit;

FIG. 6 is a diagram corresponding to FIG. 5 and illustrates an enlarged cross-sectional side view of a rear part of a reel unit according to a modification of the first exemplary embodiment;

FIG. 7 is a diagram corresponding to FIG. 3 and illustrates a cross-sectional view of a spinning reel according to a second exemplary embodiment;

FIG. 8 is a diagram corresponding to FIG. 4 and illustrates an enlarged perspective view of a chassis according to the second exemplary embodiment;

FIG. 9 is a diagram corresponding to FIG. 5 and illustrates an enlarged cross-sectional side view of a rear part of a reel unit according to the second exemplary embodiment; and

FIG. 10 is a diagram corresponding to FIG. 5 and illustrates an enlarged cross-sectional side view of a rear part of a reel unit according to a third exemplary embodiment.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

As illustrated in FIG. 1, a spinning reel **100** according to a first exemplary embodiment of the present invention is a reel enabled to forwardly release a fishing line. The spinning reel **100** includes a handle **1**, a reel unit **2** supporting the handle **1** in a rotatable state, a rotor **3**, and a spool **4**. The rotor **3** is rotatably supported at the front of the reel unit **2**. The spool **4** is configured to wind the fishing line onto the outer peripheral surface thereof. The spool **4** is disposed at the front of the rotor **3** while being movable back and forth. It should be noted that the handle **1** is attachable to either of the right and left sides of the reel unit **2**.

Reel Unit Structure

As illustrated in FIGS. 2 and 3, the reel unit **2** according to the first exemplary embodiment of the present invention includes a laterally opened chassis **2a** with a mechanism attachment space **2d**, a lid member **2b** (see FIG. 3), a tubular part **25**, a guard member **26** with a boss **26a**, a screw member **27**, a first seal member **28**, and a second seal member **29**. The chassis **2a** has a first opening **30** and a second opening **31**. The first opening **30** is opened through the front edge of the chassis **2a**, while being continuing to the mechanism attachment space **2d**. The second opening **31** is disposed oppositely to the first opening **30**. The second opening **31** extends through the rear edge of the chassis **2a**, while being continuing to the mechanism attachment space **2d**.

For example, the chassis **2a** is made of light metal alloy such as magnesium alloy or aluminum alloy. A fishing rod

3

attachment portion **2e** is integrally formed with the upper part of the chassis **2a**, while being extending back and forth in a T-shape. As illustrated in FIG. 2, the chassis **2a** accommodates a rotor drive mechanism **5** and an oscillating mechanism **6** within the mechanism attachment space **2d**. As illustrated in FIGS. 3, 4, and 5, the chassis **2a** has a first flange **2f1** and a cylindrical portion **2g** (see FIG. 4) on the front end thereof. The first flange **2f1** is a roughly semicircular portion forming a part of a circular flange **2f**. The cylindrical portion **2g** extends at its tip and has a diameter less than that of the flange **2f**. The first opening **30** extends through the first flange **2f1**.

The first opening **30** is formed by a round hole with an inner diameter through which the screw member **27** passes. The first opening **30** is formed in a first protruding portion **2h** protruding towards the second opening **31** from the first flange **2f** as the front edge of the chassis **2a**. The first opening **30** is closed with the first seal member **28** after attaching of the guard member **26** by the screw member **27**.

The second opening **31** is circularly formed in a second protruding portion **2i**. The second protruding portion **2i** is protruding towards the first opening **30** from the rear edge of the chassis **2a**. The second opening **31** has a first hole portion **31a**, a second hole portion **31b**, and a wall portion **31c**. The first hole portion **31a** has a circular shape and extends through the rear edge of the chassis **2a**. The second hole portion **31b** is circularly formed from the first hole portion **31a** towards the front edge of the chassis **2a**. The wall portion **31c** is a portion through which the second hole portion **31b** extends. The boss **26a** of the guard member **26** can be inserted into the first hole portion **31a**. The second hole portion **31b** has a diameter less than that of the first hole portion **31a**. A threaded shaft **27b** of the screw member **27** to be described can be inserted through the second hole portion **31b**. The wall portion **31c** is formed by a surface arranged perpendicular to the second hole portion **31b** extending therethrough.

As illustrated in FIGS. 1 and 3, the lid member **2b** is detachably attached to the chassis **2a** in order to close the mechanism attachment space **2d**. The lid member **2b** is made of, for instance, light metal alloy such as magnesium alloy or aluminum alloy. The lid member **2b** is fixed to the chassis **2a** by, for instance, two fixation bolts (not illustrated in the figures) at two front-side positions hidden by the rotor **3**. The two fixation bolts on the front side are screwed into two threaded holes **18** (see FIG. 4) formed in the front part of the chassis **2a**. Further, the lid member **2b** is fixed to the chassis **2a** by a fixation bolt (not illustrated in the figures) at a rear-side position away from the rotor **3**. The fixation bolt on the rear side is screwed into a threaded hole **19** formed in the rear part of the chassis **2a**. Thus, the two fixation bolts on the front side are hidden by the rotor **3**, whereas the fixation bolt on the rear side is covered with the guard member **26**. Therefore, the fixation bolts for fixing the lid member **2b** are not exposed to the outside of the reel unit **2**. The lid member **2b** has a second flange **2f2** on the front end thereof. The second flange **2f2** forms the flange **2f** together with the first flange **2f1**.

As illustrated in FIGS. 3, 4, and 5, the tubular part **25** is at least partially disposed between the first opening **30** and the second opening **31** within the mechanism attachment space **2d**. The tubular part **25** is disposed within the mechanism attachment space **2d** so as to be liquid-tight with respect to the mechanism attachment space **2d**. In the first exemplary embodiment, the tubular part **25** is a member provided separately from the chassis **2a** and is made of, for instance, synthetic resin such as polyamide resin or polyacetal resin. The tubular part **25** is disposed in the mechanism attachment space **2d** of the chassis **2a**. The tubular part **25** is disposed between the first opening **30** and the second opening **31**. The

4

tubular part **25** has a tube portion **25a**, a bottom portion **25b**, and a seal attachment portion **25c**. The tube portion **25a** is disposed in opposition to the first opening **30**. A head **27a** of the screw member **27** can be inserted in the tube portion **25a**. The tube portion **25a** has a hole with a diameter substantially the same as that of the first opening **30**. The bottom portion **25b** is disposed in opposition to the wall portion **31c**. The bottom portion **25b** has a first through hole **25d**. The threaded shaft **27b** of the screw member **27** can pass through the first through hole **25d**. The bottom portion **25b** can hold the head **27a** of the screw member **27**. The seal attachment portion **25c** is protruding in a tubular shape towards the wall portion **31c** from the bottom portion **25b**. The seal attachment portion **25c** is disposed while the tip thereof makes contact with the wall portion **31c**. The first through hole **25d** is a hole with a diameter substantially the same as that of the second hole portion **31b** of the second opening **31**.

As illustrated in FIGS. 2, 4, and 5, the guard member **26** is a member attached to the chassis **2a** and the lid member **2b** from behind for covering the chassis **2a** and the lid member **2b**. The guard member **26** defines the outer contour of the rear part of the reel unit **2**. The guard member **26** is attached to the lid member **2b** and the chassis **2a** including the fishing rod attached portion **2e** through a packing (not illustrated in the figures) for shape alignment. The boss **26a** of the guard member **26** is formed in a rod shape such that the screw member **27** is screwed into the center thereof. The boss **26a** is formed in a forwardly protruding shape and can be inserted into the second opening **31** from the rear edge of the chassis **2a**. Specifically, as described above, the boss **26a** can be inserted into the first hole portion **31a** of the second opening **31**. The boss **26a** has a female threaded portion **26b** in the center thereof. The screw member **27** is screwed into the female threaded portion **26b**. The female threaded portion **26b** is extending to an axially intermediate position in the boss **26a**. The boss **26a** has a length enabled to produce a clearance between the tip thereof and a step produced between the first hole portion **31a** and the second hole portion **31b** when the guard member **26** is fixed.

As illustrated in FIG. 4, the screw member **27** is a member having the head **27a** and the threaded shaft **27b**. The threaded shaft **27b** has a diameter less than that of the head **27a** and has a male threaded portion on the outer periphery thereof. In the present exemplary embodiment, the screw member **27** is a bolt member to be screwed into the female threaded portion **26b** formed in the boss **26a**. However, the screw member can be a self-tapping screw enabled to create a female threaded portion within the boss **26a**. The screw member **27** is attached to the tubular part **25** before the spinning reel **100** is assembled. In assembling the spinning reel **100**, the tip of a tightening tool (e.g., a screwdriver) is inserted into the tubular part **25** via the first opening **30**, and the screw member **27** is turned by the tightening tool. The screw member **27** is accordingly crewed into the boss **26a** of the guard member **26**. Consequently, the guard member **26** and the tubular part **25** are fixed to the chassis **2a**.

The first seal member **28** seals the clearance between the tubular part **25** and the first opening **30**. The first seal member **28** is fitted to the inner peripheral surface of the first opening **30** and that of the tube portion **25a** of the tubular part **25**. The first seal member **28** is an elastic member made of synthetic rubber or the like. As illustrated in FIG. 4, the first seal member **28** is a truncated cone member having a first end **28a** and a second end **28b**. The first end **28a** is fitted into the first opening **30**, while the second end **28b** is fitted into the tube portion **25a** of the tubular part **25**. The first end **28a** has an outer diameter greater than that of the second end **28b**. The

5

outer diameter of the first end **28a** of the first seal member **28** is greater than the inner diameter of the first opening **30**, whereas the outer diameter of the second end **28b** is slightly less than the inner diameter of the tube portion **25a** of the tubular part **25**. Thus, the first seal member **28** is tapered and can be easily attached to the tubular part **25** via the first opening **30**. With thus structured first seal member **28**, liquid can be prevented from entering the mechanism attachment space **2d** both from the inside of the tubular part **25** and from the first opening **30**.

The second seal member **29** seals the clearance between the tubular part **25** and the second opening **31**. The second seal member **29** is an O-ring to be attached onto the seal attachment portion **25c**. The wire diameter of the O-ring is greater than the protruding length of the seal attachment portion **25c**. With the structure, the second seal member **29** is interposed and slightly compressed between the wall portion **31c** and the bottom portion **25b**, while the tip surface of the seal attachment portion **25c** makes contact with the wall portion **31c**. Thus, the second seal member **29** seals the clearance between the bottom portion **25b** and the wall portion **31c**. As a result, even when liquid enters the second opening **31**, the liquid can be prevented from further entering the mechanism attachment space **2d** from the tubular part **25**.

In the reel unit **2**, the screw member **27** for attaching the guard member **26** is covered with the first seal member **28**. Therefore, a simple appearance can be obtained without exposing the screw member **27** to the outside. Further, the clearance between the first opening **30** and the tubular part **25** is sealed by the first seal member **28**, whereas the clearance between the second opening **31** and the tubular part **25** is sealed by the second seal member **29**. Therefore, liquid can be inhibited from entering the mechanism attachment space **2d**, while the guard member **26** can be easily fixed without exposing the screw member **27** to the rear side. Further, the screw members for fixing the lid member **2b** to the chassis **2a** are also hidden by the rotor **3** and the guard member **26**. Thus, such fixation bolts are not exposed to the outside.

Other Components of Spinning Reel

As illustrated in FIG. 3, the rotor drive mechanism **5** includes a drive shaft **10**, a drive gear **11**, and a pinion gear **12**. The drive shaft **10** is a member to which the handle **1** is fixed. The drive gear **11** is of a face gear type provided integrally with or separately from the drive shaft **10**. The pinion gear **12** is meshed with the drive gear **11**. As illustrated in FIG. 3, the drive shaft **10** is rotatably supported by the reel unit **2** through a first bearing **16a** and a second bearing **16b**. The first bearing **16a** is attached into a first boss **17a** disposed inside the chassis **2a**. The second bearing **16b** is attached into a second boss **17b** disposed inside the lid member **2b**. The drive gear **11** is disposed while the outer peripheral part thereof is opposed to the tubular part **25** disposed inside the chassis **2a** in the axial direction of the drive shaft **10**. In other words, the tubular part **25** is disposed in avoidance of contact with the drive gear **11**. Thus, even when the tubular part **25** is disposed, increase in diameter of the drive gear **11** is not thereby impeded. Therefore, the drive gear **11** of the present exemplary embodiment has a larger diameter and a greater number of teeth than a well-known drive gear.

As illustrated in FIG. 2, the pinion gear **12** is formed in a tubular shape, and the front part thereof is fixed to the rotor **3** by a nut **13** while penetrating through the center part of the rotor **3**. Further, the axially intermediate part and the axially rear end of the pinion gear **12** are rotatably supported by the reel unit **2** through a bearing **14a** and a bearing **14b**, respectively.

6

As illustrated in FIGS. 2 and 3, the oscillating mechanism **6** is a mechanism configured to move a spool shaft **15** coupled to the center part of the spool **4** through a drag mechanism **60** in a back-and-forth direction and thereby move the spool **4** in the same direction as the spool shaft **15**. The oscillating mechanism **6** includes a traverse cam shaft **21**, a slider **22**, and an intermediate gear **23**. The traverse cam shaft **21** is disposed below and in parallel to the spool shaft **15**. The slider **22** is configured to move along the traverse cam shaft **21** in the back-and-forth direction. The intermediate gear **23** is fixed to the tip of the traverse cam shaft **21**. The rear end of the spool shaft **15** is fixed to the slider **22** while being non-rotatable. The intermediate gear **23** is meshed with the pinion gear **12**.

As illustrated in FIG. 2, the rotor **3** is rotatable with respect to the reel unit **2** about a first axis X arranged in the back-and-forth direction. The rotor **3** is coupled to the pinion gear **12** while being unitarily rotatable therewith. The rotor **3** includes a rotor body **3a**, a first rotor arm **3b**, and a second rotor arm **3c**. The rotor body **3a** is formed in a roughly tubular shape and is coupled to the pinion gear **12**. The first and second rotor arms **3b** and **3c** are extending from the both lateral sides of the rotor body **3a**. Further, the rotor **3** includes a bail arm **40** pivotably coupled to the first and second rotor arms **3b** and **3c**. The bail arm **40** is disposed for winding the fishing line onto the spool **4**.

The rotor **3** is configured to be switchable between a reverse rotation prevention state and a reverse rotation permission state by an anti-reverse mechanism **50** including a roller-type one-way clutch **51**. The switching operation can be executed by a switch lever **52** disposed in the lower part of the reel unit **2**.

As illustrated in FIG. 2, the spool **4** is disposed between the first and second rotor arms **3b** and **3c** of the rotor **3**. The spool **4** is mounted to the tip of the spool shaft **15** through the drag mechanism **60**. The spool **4** has a bobbin trunk **4a**, a skirt **4b**, and a flange **4c**. The bobbin trunk **4a** is a portion that the fishing line is wound about the outer periphery thereof. The skirt **4b** is a tubular portion integrally formed with the rear end of the bobbin trunk **4a**. The flange **4c** is a large-diameter portion disposed on the front end of the bobbin trunk **4a**.

The drag mechanism **60** is configured to brake rotation of the spool **4**. The drag mechanism **60** includes a drag regulation knob **61** and a braking part **62**. The drag regulation knob **61** is screwed onto the tip of the spool shaft **15**. The braking part **62** is configured to brake the spool **4** while being pressed by the drag regulation knob **61**.

Procedure of Assembling Reel Unit

In thus structured spinning reel, the rotor drive mechanism **5** and the oscillating mechanism **6** are attached to the inside of the reel unit **2**, while the anti-reverse mechanism **50** is attached to the inside of the cylindrical portion **2g**. Further, the screw member **27** and the second seal member **29** are attached to the tubular part **25**, and the tubular part **25** is temporarily disposed within the mechanism attachment space **2d** of the chassis **2a** by the screw member **27**. Under the condition, the chassis **2a** is covered with the lid member **2b**. The lid member **2b** is then fixed to the chassis **2a** by the fixation bolts (not illustrated in the figures). Next, the guard member **26** is attached to the chassis **2a** and the lid member **2b** from behind. At this time, the boss **26a** of the guard member **26** is inserted into the first hole portion **31a** of the second opening **31**. Then, the screw member **27** is screwed into the boss **26a** using the tightening tool (e.g., a screwdriver) inserted through the first opening **30**. The guard member **26** and the tubular part **25** are thereby fixed to the chassis **2a**. With the aforementioned procedure, an assembling work of the reel unit **2** is finished.

In this case, the clearance between the tubular part **25** and the first opening **30** is sealed by the first seal member **28**, whereas the clearance between the tubular part **25** and the second opening **31** is sealed by the second seal member **29**. Further, the guard member **26** and the tubular part **25** are fixed to the chassis **2a** by screwing the single screw member **27**, disposed inside the tubular part **25**, into the boss **26a** inserted into the second opening **31** from the rear side. Therefore, the guard member **26** can be easily fixed to the chassis **2a** without exposing the screw member **27** to the rear side, while liquid can be inhibited from entering the mechanism attachment space **2d**.

Modification of First Exemplary Embodiment

In the first exemplary embodiment, the tip of the seal attachment portion **25c** of the tubular part **25** makes contact with the wall portion **31c** of the second opening **31**. However, the present invention is not limited to the structure. As illustrated in FIG. **6**, in a modification of the first exemplary embodiment, a second opening **131** is formed only by a first hole portion **131a** that a boss **126a** can be inserted therein. A seal attachment portion **125c** of a tubular part **125** is fitted into the first hole portion **131a** of the second opening **131**. In the modification, the seal attachment portion **125c** has an annular groove **125e** on the outer peripheral surface thereof for attaching thereto a second seal member **129**. The second seal member **129** seals the clearance between the seal attachment portion **125c** and the inner peripheral surface of the first hole portion **131a**. Further, a bottom portion **125b** of the tubular part **125** makes contact with the wall portion **31c** of the second opening **131**. The other components are the same as the corresponding ones of the first exemplary embodiment. Therefore, the same reference numerals are assigned to the same components as those used in the first exemplary embodiment, and explanation thereof will be hereinafter omitted.

According to the structure of the modification of the first exemplary embodiment, the tubular part **125** can be easily held when temporarily held within the mechanism attachment space **2d**.

Second Exemplary Embodiment

In the first exemplary embodiment, the tubular part **25** is disposed separately from the chassis **2a**. In the second exemplary embodiment, as illustrated in FIGS. **7**, **8**, and **9**, a tubular part **225** of a reel unit **202** of a spinning reel **300** is integrally formed with a chassis **202a**. Further, a first opening **230** and a second opening **231** are continuing to a second through hole **224a** without being continuing to the mechanism attachment space **2d**. The tubular part **225** has the second through hole **224a** and a penetrating part **224**. The second through hole **224a** penetrates through the mechanism attachment space **2d** in the back-and-forth direction. The penetrating part **224** is sealed to be liquid-tight with respect to the mechanism attachment space **2d**. It should be noted that in the following explanation and drawings, the same reference numerals are assigned to members structured similarly to the corresponding ones of the first exemplary embodiment, and explanation thereof will be hereinafter omitted.

The first flange **2/1** has the first opening **230** formed by a round hole. The first opening **230** is configured to continue to the penetrating part **224**. The first opening **230** is closed by a cap **239** after a guard member **226** is attached by a screw member **227**. The chassis **202a** has a protruding part **232** formed on the upper part of the inner lateral surface. The

protruding part **232** is formed in a shape protruding towards the lid member **2b**. The protruding part **232** is extending along the back-and-forth direction, while connecting the front edge and the rear edge of the chassis **202a**. The second through hole **224a** of the penetrating part **224** is formed in the protruding part **232**, while penetrating through the front edge and the rear edge of the chassis **202a**. Therefore, the penetrating part **224** is sealed to be liquid-tight with respect to the mechanism attachment space **2d**.

As illustrated in FIGS. **8** and **9**, the second through hole **224a** has a first portion **224b**, a second portion **224c**, and a third portion **224d**. The first portion **224b** is continuing to the first opening **230**. The first portion **224b** is a hole formed in the front part of the chassis **202a** and a head **227a** of the screw member **227** is inserted in the hole. The second portion **224c** is a hole formed in the rear part of the chassis **202a** and a boss **226a** (to be described) of the guard member **226** is inserted in the hole. The second portion **224c** is continuing to the second opening **231**. The third portion **224d** is disposed between the first portion **224b** and the second portion **224c**. The third portion **224d** is a hole with a diameter less than that of the first portion **224b** and a shaft **227b** of the screw member **227** is inserted in the hole. The head **227a** of the screw member **227** is held by a step produced between the first portion **224b** and the third portion **224d**. The shaft **227b** penetrates through the third portion **224d** and reaches the second portion **224c**. The boss **226a** is inserted into the second portion **224c**. The tip of the boss **226a** is disposed rearwards of a step produced between the second portion **224c** and the third portion **224d**.

As illustrated in FIG. **8**, an intermediate portion **232a** of the protruding part **232**, corresponding to the third portion **224d**, is formed along with the shape of the second through hole **224a** and has a diameter less than that of the both sides thereof. In this case, the protruding part **232** and the penetrating part **224** are formed with an even thickness. Therefore, sink marks are less easily produced in die molding, and further, it is possible to prevent deformation of the holes of the penetrating part **224** attributed to such sink marks.

The guard member **226** is structured similarly to the guard member **26** of the first exemplary embodiment. It should be noted that the boss **226a** has a length greater than that of the boss **26a** of the first exemplary embodiment. The boss **226a** is formed in such a shape that it can protrude from the rear part of the chassis **202a** towards the second through hole **224a** of the penetrating part **224**. As described above, the boss **226a** can be inserted into the second portion **224c** of the penetrating part **224**. As illustrated in FIG. **9**, the boss **226a** has a screwed recess **226b** in the center thereof. The screw member **227** is screwed into the screwed recess **226b**. The screwed recess **226b** is extending to an axially intermediate position in the boss **226a**.

As illustrated in FIG. **9**, the screw member **227** is a member having the head **227a** and the shaft **227b**. The shaft **227b** has a diameter less than that of the head **227a**, and has a male threaded portion on the outer peripheral part thereof. In the second exemplary embodiment, a self-tapping screw, enabled to form a female threaded portion, is used as the screw member **227**. However, a normal bolt, screwed into a female threaded portion, can be used as the screw member. In this case, the female threaded portion is formed on the screwed recess. The screw member **227** is inserted into the penetrating part **224** from the front part of the chassis **202a**, and is screwed into the boss **226a** of the guard member **226**. Accordingly, the guard member **226** is fixed to the chassis **202a**.

In the reel unit **202**, the screw member **227**, provided for attaching of the guard member **226**, is covered with the cap **239**. Therefore, a simple appearance can be obtained without

exposing the screw member 227 to the outside. Further, the screw member 227 is attached to the penetrating part 224 sealed to be liquid-tight with respect to the mechanism attachment space 2d. Yet further, the boss 226a of the guard member 226 is also disposed in the penetrating part 224. Under the condition, the guard member 226 is fixed to the chassis 202a by the screw member 227. Therefore, the guard member 226 can be easily fixed without exposing the screw member 227 to the rear side, while liquid can be inhibited from entering the mechanism attachment space 2d. Further, the screw members, provided for fixing the lid member 2b to the chassis 202a, are also hidden by the rotor 3 and the guard member 226. Thus, these screw members are also not exposed to the outside.

Procedure of Assembling Reel Unit

In thus structured spinning reel, the rotor drive mechanism 5 and the oscillating mechanism 6 are attached to the inside of the reel unit 202, while the anti-reverse mechanism 50 is attached to the inside of the cylindrical portion 2g. Under the condition, the chassis 202a is covered with the lid member 2b. The lid member 2b is then fixed to the chassis 202a by the fixation bolts (not illustrated in the figures). Next, the guard member 226 is attached to the chassis 202a and the lid member 2b from behind. At this time, the boss 226a of the guard member 226 is inserted into the second portion 224c of the second through hole 224a. Further, the screw member 227 is inserted from the first portion 224b, and is screwed into the boss 226a using a tool (e.g., a screwdriver). The guard member 226 is thereby fixed to the chassis 202a. With the aforementioned procedure, an assembling work of the reel unit 202 is finished.

In this case, the guard member 226 is fixed to the chassis 202a by screwing the single screw member 227 inserted from the front part into the boss 226a inserted from the rear part within the penetrating part 224 sealed to be liquid tight with respect to the mechanism attachment space 2d. Therefore, the guard member 226 can be easily fixed without exposing the screw member 227 to the rear side, while liquid can be prevented from entering the mechanism attachment space 2d.

Third Exemplary Embodiment

In the aforementioned first exemplary embodiment, the tubular part 25 is disposed only in the mechanism attachment space 2d. However, the present invention is not limited to the structure. In a reel unit 302 illustrated in FIG. 10, a tubular part 325 is disposed while penetrating through first and second openings 330 and 331 of a chassis 302a. Therefore, the tubular part 325 is disposed across the mechanism attachment space 2d. The first opening 330 has a third hole portion 330a with a large diameter and a fourth hole portion 330b with a small diameter. The second opening 331 is formed such that the tubular part 325 penetrates therethrough.

The tubular part 325 has a tube portion 325a and a brimmed portion 325b. The tube portion 325a has a diameter less than that of the brimmed portion 325b. The brimmed portion 325b is a large-diameter portion for a positioning purpose, and is held by a step produced between the third hole portion 330a and the fourth hole portion 330b. The tubular part 325 further includes a penetrating part 324 having a second through hole 324a. The second through hole 324a has a first portion 324b, a second portion 324c and a third portion 324d. The first portion 324b has an inner diameter that a head 327a of a screw member 327 can be inserted therein. The second portion 324c has an inner diameter that a boss 326a of a guard member 326 can be inserted therein. The third portion 324d is a small-diameter portion disposed between the first portion 324b and

the second portion 324c. The third portion 324d has an inner diameter that a threaded shaft 327b of the screw member 327 can pass therethrough. The rear end of the tube portion 325a is protruding rearwards of the chassis 302a.

The tip of the boss 326a of the guard member 326 is disposed rearwards of a step produced between the second portion 324c and the third portion 324d.

The head 327a of the screw member 327 is held by the step produced between the first portion 324b and the third portion 324d. The threaded shaft 327b is screwed into the boss 326a while penetrating the third portion 324d. For example, the screw member 327 is a self-tapping screw.

A first seal member 328 is disposed between the outer peripheral surface of the front part of the tube portion 325a and the first opening 330 in order to seal the clearance between the tubular part 325 and the first opening 330. As illustrated in the enlarged view of FIG. 10, the first seal member 328 is attached to a first annular groove 325f formed on the outer peripheral surface of the tube portion 325a.

A second seal member 329 is disposed between the outer peripheral surface of the rear part of the tube portion 325a and the second opening 331 in order to seal the clearance between the tubular part 325 and the second opening 331. As illustrated in the enlarged view of FIG. 10, the second seal member 329 is attached to a second annular groove 325g formed on the outer peripheral surface of the rear part of the tube portion 325a. The first seal member 328 and the second seal member 329 are O-rings. The front-side opened part of the first portion 324b of the tubular part 325 is closed with a cap member 339 made of, for instance, elastic material.

In thus formed reel unit 302, the tubular part 325, to which the first and second seal members 328 and 329 are attached, is preliminarily inserted from the first opening 330, is penetrated through the second opening 331, and is pressed into the chassis 302a until the brimmed portion 325b makes contact with the step produced between the third hole portion 330a and the fourth hole portion 330b. When it is completed to assemble mechanisms such as the rotor drive mechanism 5 and the oscillating mechanism 6 to the inside of the mechanism attachment space 2d, the boss 326a of the guard member 326 is inserted into the second portion 324c of the penetrating part 324. Then, the screw member 327 is inserted from the first portion 324b, and is screwed until the guard member 326 makes contact with the chassis 302a and a lid member (not illustrated in the figure) while the brimmed portion 325b makes contact with the step produced between the third hole portion 330a and the fourth hole portion 330b of the first opening 330. Accordingly, the guard member 326 and the tubular part 325 are fixed to the chassis 302a.

In thus structured reel unit 302, the front-side and rear-side outer peripheral portions of the tubular part 325 are sealed with the first seal member 328 and the second seal member 329. Therefore, liquid can be prevented from entering the mechanism attachment space 2d through the clearance between the tubular part 325 and the first opening 330 and that between the tubular part 325 and the second opening 331. Further, the tubular part 325 is disposed while penetrating through the front edge and the rear edge of the chassis 302a. Therefore, even when entering the inside of the tubular part 325, liquid can be prevented from entering the mechanism attachment space 2d. The other components are the same as the corresponding ones of the first exemplary embodiment. Therefore, detailed explanation thereof will be hereinafter omitted.

It should be noted that in the third exemplary embodiment, the tubular part 325 is detachably attached to the first opening 330 and the second opening 331. However, the tubular part

11

325 can be fixed to the first opening 30 and the second opening 331 by an arbitrary fixation method such as adhesion, press-fitting or the like. In this case, the brimmed portion 325b for a positioning purpose is not required to be provided. Thus, the mechanism attachment space 2d can be liquid tight by fixing the tubular part 325 without using a seal member. Features

The aforementioned exemplary embodiments can be expressed as follows.

(A) The reel unit 2 is attachable to a fishing rod and is used for the spinning reel 100 configured to forwardly release the fishing line. The reel unit 2 includes the chassis 2a, the lid member 2b, the guard member 26, the tubular part 25 and the screw member 27. The chassis 2a has the mechanism attachment space 2d, the first opening 30 and the second opening 31. The mechanism attachment space 2d is configured at a lateral side of the chassis 2a. The first opening 30 is extending through the front edge of the chassis 2a while being continuing to the mechanism attachment space 2d. The second opening 31 is disposed on the opposite side of to the first opening 30. The second opening 31 is extending through the rear edge of the chassis 2a while being continuing to the mechanism attachment space 2d. The lid member 2b is detachably attached to the chassis 2a for closing the mechanism attachment space 2d. The guard member 26 is attached to the chassis 2a and the lid member 2b from behind for covering the chassis 2a and the lid member 2b. The guard member 26 has the boss 26a which is inserted into the second opening 31 from the rear edge of the chassis 2a. The tubular part 25 is disposed between the first opening 30 and the second opening 31 within the mechanism attachment space 2d so as to be liquid-tight with respect to the mechanism attachment space 2d. The screw member 27 passes through the first opening 30, and is screwed into the boss 26a while the head 27a thereof is held inside the tubular part 25.

In the reel unit 2, the guard member 26 is fixed to the chassis 2a by the single screw member 27 that the head 27a thereof is held by the tubular part 25. The tubular part 25 is disposed between the first opening 30 and the second opening 31 within the mechanism attachment space 2d so as to be liquid-tight with respect to the mechanism attachment space 2d. Therefore, liquid is prevented from entering the mechanism attachment space 2d from the inside of the tubular part 25. Further, the guard member 26 can be fixed to the chassis 2a by the single screw member. Therefore, liquid can be inhibited from entering the mechanism attachment space 2d, while the guard member 26 can be easily fixed without exposing the screw member 27 to the rear side.

(B) In the reel unit 2, the first opening 30 and the second opening 31 are respectively continuing to the mechanism attachment space 2d. The tubular part 25 is at least partially disposed between the first opening 30 and the second opening 31 within the mechanism attachment space 2d. The reel unit 2 further includes the first seal member 28 and the second seal member 29. The first seal member 28 seals the clearance between the tubular part 25 and the first opening 30. The second seal member 29 seals the clearance between the tubular part 25 and the second opening 31.

(C) In the reel unit 2, the second opening 31 has the first hole portion 31a, the second hole portion 31b and the wall portion 31c. The first hole portion 31a is extending to the rear edge of the chassis 2a and the boss 26a is inserted in the first hole portion 31a. The second hole portion 31b is formed towards the front edge of the chassis 2a from the first hole portion 31a and the threaded shaft 27b of the screw member 27 passes therethrough. The second hole portion 31b has a diameter less than that of the first hole portion 31a. The wall

12

portion 31c has the second hole portion 31b extending there-through, and has a surface disposed perpendicular to the second hole portion 31b. The tubular part 25 is disposed within the mechanism attachment space 2d. The tubular part 25 has the tube portion 25a and the bottom portion 25b. The tube portion 25a is disposed in opposition to the first opening 30. The head 27a of the screw member 27 is inserted in the tube portion 25a. The bottom portion 25b is disposed in opposition to the wall portion 31c. The bottom portion 25b has the first through hole 25d through which the threaded shaft 27b passes. The bottom portion 25b is enabled to hold the head 27a. The first seal member 28 is fitted to the first opening 30 and the tube portion 25a.

(D) In the reel unit 2, the first seal member 28 is a truncated cone member made of elastic material, and the first end 28a thereof fitted to the first opening 30 has a diameter greater than that of the second end 28b thereof fitted to the tube portion 25a. In this case, the first seal member 28 is tapered that is attached to the tube portion 25a through the first opening 30. Therefore, the first seal member 28 can be easily attached to the tube portion 25a.

(E) In the reel unit 2, the second seal member 29 is disposed between the wall portion 31c and the bottom portion 25b. The tubular part 25 has the seal attachment portion 25c circularly protruding towards the wall portion 31c from the bottom portion 25b. The second seal member 29 is attached onto the outer peripheral surface of the seal attachment portion 25c. In this case, the second seal member 29, disposed between the wall portion 31c and the bottom portion 25b, is attached to the seal attachment portion 25c. Therefore, the second seal member 29 can be reliably attached thereto.

(F) In the reel unit 2, the second seal member 29 is an O-ring attachable to the seal attachment portion 25c. In this case, the clearance between the tubular part 25 and the second opening 31 can be sealed by a commercially available O-ring.

(G) In the reel unit 302, the tubular part 325 is detachably attached to the first opening 330 and the second opening 331. In this case, attaching of the tubular part 325 can be easily done because of the structure that the tubular part 325 is detachably attached to the first opening 330 and the second opening 331.

(H) In the reel unit 202, the tubular part 225 includes the penetrating part 224 having the second through hole 224a. The second through hole 224a penetrates through the mechanism attachment space 2d in the back-and-forth direction, while being continuing to the first opening 230 and the second opening 231. The penetrating part 224 is sealed to be liquid-tight with respect to the mechanism attachment space 2d.

When the guard member 226 is fixed to the chassis 202a in the reel unit 202, the boss 226a of the guard member 226 is inserted into the second through hole 224a from the rear side. Under the condition, the screw member 227 is inserted into the second through hole 224a from the front side and is screwed into the boss 226a. Accordingly, the guard member 226 is fixed to the chassis 202a. The penetrating part 224 is herein sealed to be liquid-tight with respect to the mechanism attachment space 2d. Therefore, liquid is prevented from entering the mechanism attachment space 2d through the penetrating part 224.

(I) In the reel unit 202 (302), the penetrating part 224 (324) is disposed only in the chassis 202a (302a). In this case, the penetrating part 224 (324) is disposed only in the chassis 202a (302a) without being disposed in the lid member 2b. Therefore, it is not required to provide a structure using another seal member for making the penetrating part 224 (324) liquid-

tight with respect to the mechanism attachment space **2d**. Therefore, the guard member **226** (**326**) can be more easily fixed.

(J) In the reel unit **202**, the chassis **202a** has the protruding part **232** protruding towards the lid member **2b** from the inner lateral surface of the chassis **202a**. The protruding part **232** is extending along the back-and-forth direction while connecting the front edge and the rear edge of the chassis **202a**. The second through hole **224a** is disposed within the protruding part **232** while penetrating through the front edge and the rear edge of the chassis **202a** along the back-and-forth direction. In this case, it is possible to easily form a structure for making the penetrating part **224** liquid-tight with respect to the mechanism attachment space **2d**, because of the structure that the protruding part **232** protruding towards the lid member **2b** is disposed within the chassis **202a** and the structure that the second through hole **224a** is disposed within the protruding part **232** while penetrating the front edge and the rear edge of the chassis **202a**. Further, where being fabricated by die forming, the chassis **202a** can be fabricated using a simple die configured to be split in the right-and-left direction (i.e., a drive shaft direction) even when the chassis **202a** is designed to include the protruding part **232**.

(K) In the reel unit **202**, the second through hole **224a** has the first portion **224b**, the second portion **224c** and the third portion **224d**. The first portion **224b** is disposed in the front part of the second through hole **224a** and the head **227a** of the screw member **227** is inserted in the second through hole **224a**. The second portion **224c** is disposed in the rear part of the second through hole **224a** and the boss **226a** is inserted the second through hole **224a**. The third portion **224d** is disposed between the first portion **224b** and the second portion **224c** and has a diameter less than that of the first portion **224b** and that of the second portion **224c**.

In the second through hole **224a**, the head **227a** of the screw member **227** is inserted into the first portion **224b** while being held by the step produced between the first portion **224b** and the third portion **224d**. Further, the boss **226a** is inserted into the second portion **224c**. The length of the boss **226a** is preferably set for producing a clearance between the tip of the boss **226a** and the step produced between the second portion **224c** and the third portion **224d**.

(L) In the reel unit **302**, the penetrating part **324** is detachably attached to the first opening **330** and the second opening **331**. In this case, attaching of the penetrating part **324** can be easily done due to the structure that the penetrating part **324** is attached to the first opening **330** and the second opening **331**.

(M) The spinning reel includes the spool **4**, the rotor **3** for winding the fishing line onto the spool **4**, and the drive gear **11** for driving the rotor **3**. In the reel unit **2**, the tubular part **25** is disposed in a position where it is opposed to the drive gear **11** in the axial direction of the drive gear **11**. In this case, the tubular part **25** and the drive gear **11** can be disposed in alignment in the axial direction of the drive gear **11**. Therefore, the tubular part **25** does not spatially interfere with the drive gear **11**. Therefore, increase in diameter of the drive gear **11** can be achieved even when the tubular part **25** is provided.

(N) In the reel unit **2**, the chassis **2a** has the fishing rod attached portion **2e** attachable to a fishing rod. In this case, the chassis **2a** with relatively high stiffness is provided with the fishing rod attached portion **2e** to which force is applied from the fishing rod during fishing. Therefore, it is easy to reliably obtain such strength as required for the fishing rod attached portion **2e**.

(O) The spinning reel **100** includes the reel unit **2**, the spool **4**, the rotor **3** and the drive gear **11**. The spool **4** is mounted to the reel unit **2** while being enabled to reciprocate back and

forth. The rotor **3** is rotatably supported by the reel unit **2** for winding the fishing line onto the spool **4**.

The spinning reel **100** can implement a spinning reel for achieving the aforementioned advantageous effects.

Other Exemplary Embodiments

An exemplary embodiment of the present invention has been explained. However, the present invention is not limited to the aforementioned exemplary embodiment, and a variety of changes can be herein made without departing from the scope of the present invention. Especially, the plurality of exemplary embodiments and modifications described in the present specification can be arbitrarily used in combination on an as-needed basis.

(a) The first exemplary embodiment describes an O-ring as the second seal member **29**. However, the second seal member is not limited to the O-ring. For example, the second seal member can be a ring-shaped sheet packing to be disposed between the wall portion **31c** and the bottom portion **25b**.

(b) In the first to third exemplary embodiments, the fishing rod attached portion **2e** is integrally formed with the chassis **2a**. However, the fishing rod attached portion **2e** can be integrally formed with the lid member **2b**.

(c) In the second exemplary embodiment, the protruding part **232** is protruding from the inner lateral surface of the chassis **202a**. However, the present invention is not limited to the structure. For example, the protruding part can be downwardly protruding from the inner top surface of the chassis **202a**. It should be noted that in fabricating the chassis **202a** by die forming, the protruding part **232** is preferably protruding towards the lid member **2b** for avoiding complication of a die to be used.

Advantageous Effects of Invention

According to the present invention, the clearances between the tubular part and the chassis are sealed by the first seal member and the second seal member. Therefore, liquid is prevented from entering the mechanism attachment space from the inside of the tubular part. Further, by the single screw member, the guard member can be fixed to the chassis, while the tubular part can be fixed to the chassis. Accordingly, liquid can be inhibited from entering the mechanism attachment space, while the guard member can be easily fixed without exposing the screw member to the rear side.

GENERAL INTERPRETATION OF TERMS

In understanding the scope of the present invention, the term "comprising" and its derivatives, as used herein, are intended to be open ended terms that specify the presence of the stated features, elements, components, groups, integers, and/or steps, but do not exclude the presence of other unstated features, elements, components, groups, integers and/or steps. The foregoing also applies to words having similar meanings such as the terms, "including", "having" and their derivatives. Also, the terms "part," "section," "portion," "member" or "element" when used in the singular can have the dual meaning of a single part or a plurality of parts. Finally, terms of degree such as "substantially", "about" and "approximately" as used herein mean a reasonable amount of deviation of the modified term such that the end result is not significantly changed. For example, these terms can be construed as including a deviation of at least $\pm 5\%$ of the modified term if this deviation would not negate the meaning of the word it modifies.

15

While only selected embodiments have been chosen to illustrate the present invention, it will be apparent to those skilled in the art from this disclosure that various changes and modifications can be made herein without departing from the scope of the invention as defined in the appended claims. Furthermore, the foregoing descriptions of the embodiments according to the present invention are provided for illustration only, and not for the purpose of limiting the invention as defined by the appended claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

1. A reel unit for a spinning reel, the spinning reel being attachable to a fishing rod, the spinning reel configured to forwardly release a fishing line from a front side of the spinning reel, the reel unit comprising:

- a chassis including a mechanism attachment space at a lateral side thereof, a first opening extending through a front edge of the chassis, and a second opening extending through a rear edge of the chassis, the second opening disposed on an opposite side of the first opening;
- a lid member detachably attached to the chassis to close the mechanism attachment space;
- a guard member including a boss being inserted into the second opening from the rear edge of the chassis, the guard member being attached to the chassis and the lid member from behind to cover the chassis and the lid member;
- a tubular part being disposed between the first opening and the second opening within the mechanism attachment space and arranged to be liquid-tight; and
- a screw member passing through the first opening and being screwed into the boss, the screw member having a head being held inside the tubular part.

2. A reel unit for a spinning reel, the spinning reel being attachable to a fishing rod, the spinning reel configured to forwardly release a fishing line from a front side of the spinning reel, the reel unit comprising:

- a chassis including a mechanism attachment space at a lateral side thereof, a first opening extending through a front edge of the chassis, and a second opening extending through a rear edge of the chassis, the second opening disposed on an opposite side of the first opening;
 - a lid member detachably attached to the chassis to close the mechanism attachment space;
 - a guard member including a boss being inserted into the second opening from the rear edge of the chassis, the guard member being attached to the chassis and the lid member from behind to cover the chassis and the lid member;
 - a tubular part being disposed between the first opening and the second opening within the mechanism attachment space and arranged to be liquid-tight; and
 - a screw member passing through the first opening and being screwed into the boss, the screw member having a head being held inside the tubular part,
- the first opening and the second opening continuing to the mechanism attachment space,
- at least a part of the tubular part being disposed between the first opening and the second opening within the mechanism attachment space, and
- the reel unit further including

- a first seal member being configured to seal a clearance between the tubular part and the first opening, and
- a second seal member being configured to seal a clearance between the tubular part and the second opening.

3. The reel for the spinning reel according to claim 2, wherein

16

the second opening includes a first hole portion extending through the rear edge of the chassis, a second hole portion extending from the first hole portion towards the front edge of the chassis, and a wall portion through which the second hole portion extends,

the wall portion includes a surface being disposed perpendicular to the second hole portion,

the boss is inserted in the first hole portion,

the screw member includes a threaded shaft passing through the second hole portion,

the second hole portion has a diameter less than a diameter of the first hole portion,

the tubular part is disposed within the mechanism attachment space

the tubular part includes a tube portion disposed in opposition to the first opening, and

a bottom portion disposed in opposition to the wall portion, the head of the screw member is inserted in the tube portion,

the bottom portion including a first through hole, the threaded shaft of the screw member passes through the first through hole,

the bottom portion is configured to hold the head of the screw member, and

the first seal member is fitted to the first opening and the tubular part.

4. The reel unit for the spinning reel according to claim 3, wherein

the first seal member is a truncated cone member made of an elastic material,

the first seal member includes a first end fitted to the first opening and a second end fitted to the tube portion, the first end has a diameter greater than a diameter of the second end.

5. The reel unit for the spinning reel according to claim 3, wherein

the second seal member is disposed between the wall portion and the bottom portion,

the tubular part includes a seal attachment portion having a circular shape and protruding from the bottom portion towards the wall portion, and

the second seal member is attached onto an outer peripheral surface of the seal attachment portion.

6. The reel unit for the spinning reel according to claim 5, wherein

the second seal member is an O-ring.

7. The reel unit for the spinning reel according to claim 2, wherein

the tubular part is detachably attached to the first opening and the second opening.

8. A reel unit for spinning reel, the spinning reel being attachable to a fishing rod, the spinning reel configured to forwardly release a fishing line from a front side of the spinning reel, the reel unit comprising:

- a chassis including a mechanism attachment space at a lateral side thereof, a first opening extending through a front edge of the chassis, and a second opening extending through a rear edge of the chassis, the second opening disposed on an opposite side of the first opening;
- a lid member detachably attached to the chassis to close the mechanism attachment space;

a guard member including a boss being inserted into the second opening from the rear edge of the chassis, the guard member being attached to the chassis and the lid member from behind to cover the chassis and the lid member;

17

a tubular part being disposed between the first opening and the second opening within the mechanism attachment space and arranged to be liquid-tight; and
 a screw member passing through the first opening and being screwed into the boss, the screw member having a head being held inside the tubular part,
 the tubular part including a penetrating part being sealed to be liquid-tight,
 the penetrating part including a second through hole, the second through hole extending through the mechanism attachment space in a back-and-forth direction, and the second through hole continuing to the first opening and the second opening.

9. The reel unit for the spinning reel according to claim 8, wherein the penetrating part is only provided on the chassis.

10. The reel unit for the spinning reel according to claim 9, wherein the chassis has a protruding part, the protruding part protrudes from an inner lateral surface of the chassis towards the lid member, the protruding part extending along the back-and-forth direction while connecting the front edge and the rear edge of the chassis, and the second through hole is disposed in the protruding part along the back-and-forth direction while extending through the front edge and the rear edge of the chassis.

11. The reel unit for the spinning reel according to claim 9, wherein the penetrating part is detachably attached to the first opening and the second opening.

18

12. The reel unit for the spinning reel according to claim 8, wherein the second through hole includes: a first portion disposed in a front part thereof, a second portion disposed in a rear part thereof, a third portion disposed between the first portion and the second portion, the head of the screw member is inserted in the first portion, the boss is inserted in the second portion, the shaft of the screw member is inserted in the third portion, and the third portion has a diameter less than a diameter of the first portion.

13. The reel unit for a spinning reel according to claim 1, wherein the spinning reel includes a spool, a rotor being configured to wind the fishing line onto the spool, and a drive gear being configured to drive the rotor, and the tubular part is positioned in opposition to the drive gear in an axial direction of the drive gear.

14. The reel unit for the spinning reel according to claim 1, wherein the chassis includes a fishing rod attachment portion being attachable to the fishing rod.

15. A spinning reel, comprising: the reel unit according to claim 1; a spool being attached to the reel unit to be reciprocally moved back and forth; a rotor being rotatably supported by the reel unit to wind the fishing line onto the spool; and a drive gear being configured to drive the rotor.

* * * * *